

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 94-765-E - ORDER NO. 94-1306✓
DECEMBER 30, 1994

IN RE: Application of Duke Power Company for) ORDER
Approval of Modifications to Outdoor) GRANTING
Lighting Schedules OL, FL, PL, and) PROPOSED
Underground Distribution Installation Plan.) CHANGES

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the December 14, 1994 letter of Duke Power Company (Duke or the Company) proposing changes to Duke's Outdoor Lighting Schedules and the Company's Underground Distribution Installation Plan. With regard to the proposed changes to the Outdoor Lighting Schedules, Duke proposes to make available on Schedules OL, FL, and PL a metal halide luminaire rated at 40,000 lumens. On Schedule OL, Duke proposes to add two sizes of High Pressure Sodium Luminaires to better meet customer needs. These luminaires, which are currently offered under Schedule PL, are rated at 16,000 lumens and 50,000 lumens. On Schedule OL, Duke plans to change the Contract paragraph to clarify changes to the term of contract for lighting installed at a residence that the Commission approved earlier this year in Docket No. 94-239-E, Order No. 94-396. Duke also proposes to modify the Explanatory Notes on Schedule PL, specifically the second sentence of paragraph two (2) for consistency with a proposed change to the Company's Underground Distribution Plan as outlined by the Company. Duke proposes to delete the phrase "installed under the Company's

Underground Distribution Installation Plan."

Duke also proposes to revise paragraph 13 of the Company's Underground Distribution Installation Plan concerning installation of street lighting. Originally, this paragraph was designed for standard municipal street lighting within city subdivisions. The paragraph provided that there would be no additional underground charge for street lighting if it was installed at the same time as an underground distribution system. According to Duke, over the years, there have been changes in the styles of lighting offered and changes in the design and collection for underground costs on Schedules OL and FL; the types of requests involving underground service to outdoor lighting have expanded beyond the original intent for street lighting. Also according to Duke, the result has been confusion about the application of this paragraph, and appropriate cost recovery. The approved Schedules OL and FL in Duke's last rate case were designed with the intent of collecting the underground costs within the redesigned schedule of charges. In an effort to appropriately administer Duke's lighting schedules and the Underground Plan, Duke plans to handle all underground lighting charges under the applicable rate schedule. Duke, therefore, proposes to revise paragraph 13 to read, "Underground conductors to provide service to Company-owned outdoor lighting will be furnished under the applicable schedule on file with and approved by the Commission."

Duke also proposes a revision of Section II of the Underground Distribution Installation plan, Nonresidential Service, paragraph three (3) to provide additional underground footage at no charge in

some situations involving three-phase service. Duke's experience apparently shows that as the transformer size increases, underground service becomes more economically feasible than overhead service. Duke, therefore, proposes to provide underground footage over 500 feet at no charge when the cost of underground service is less than overhead service. Further, Duke proposes to revise the section titled Conversion to Underground, paragraph 1 to clarify the basis for the contribution in aid of construction. The current plan does not distinguish between situations where the existing facilities are adequate or inadequate due to increased load requirements. The clarification, according to Duke, would provide the following criteria: In situations where the service is inadequate to supply an increased load, Duke would normally upgrade an existing overhead system at no charge to the customer. Therefore, it would be appropriate to charge the customer the cost difference between the upgraded overhead facilities, which Duke would have installed at no charge, and the required underground facilities. However, when a customer requests a conversion to underground facilities and the overhead facilities are adequate, it is appropriate that the customer pay the cost of the underground facilities requested, less any salvage value for the overhead system being replaced. Paragraphs (a) and (b) have been added to describe the two situations. Duke also proposes correcting certain typographical errors and mislabelings. Duke requests that they be allowed to begin offering the new equipment and that the changes become effective January 1, 1995.

According to S.C. Code Ann. §58-27-870(F) (1976, as amended),

the Commission may allow rates or tariffs to be put into effect without notice and hearing upon an order of the Commission when such rates or tariffs do not require determination of the entire rate structure and overall rate of return. The Commission has examined the matter and the modifications proposed by Duke in the present situation and believes that no notice or public hearing are necessary due to the fact that the entire rate structure and overall rate of return need not be determined to consider the matters proposed by Duke. The Commission also believes that the requested changes by Duke are reasonable and in the public interest and hereby approves the changes as proposed effective January 1, 1995. The Company shall file ten (10) copies of the modification with the Commission within ten (10) days of its receipt of this Order. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director

(SEAL)